Supplementary industries occupy part of the spare time, but by no means all. A survey, made before the inflation of the 1940's with their skyrocketing prices, indicated that the average yearly income of a farmer's family, excluding any allowance for house rent but including produce raised on the ground and consumed by the family, was only $147 (American currency), or only about $2.30 a month per capita. Half even of this distressingly slight sum was taken up by the costs of farming, so that only about $73 were left for the subsistence of the average family. In North China, where the poverty is greater, an investigation showed that the rural population had only about $5 American currency per capita a year for food, fuel, shelter, and clothing, whereas a minimum living wage was three times that sum. Only by rigid economy can the masses eke out the barest existence. For most of them the money required for even elementary education is all but out of the question. The rate of illiteracy is correspondingly high and the problem of achieving a democratic national or provincial government is consequently augmented.

Yet in fairly normal times chronic semi-starvation is by no means universal. Infant mortality is excessive, but it seems probable from statistics taken from several widely separated areas that a larger proportion of the population attains old age than in rural India—although decidedly less than in France and slightly less than in Germany. Moreover, many farmers make an annual profit on their operations. No one who has travelled in China, especially in the Yangtze Valley and the South, can forget the comfortable farmsteads he has seen, with their air of dignity and peace. Many a well-to-do rural family has nourished for generations a tra-

dition of culture and self-respect. As has been suggested, both incomes and profits average much less in the North, with its smaller rainfall, than in the Yangtze Valley. In the North, therefore, the average standard of living is lower than in the South.

Given the method of cultivation by the lavish application of human labor, it follows that a considerable proportion of the land remains untilled. Only the more fertile soils can be made to yield a sufficient return to justify the investment of labor required by the traditional methods. Much of the unploughed land, to be sure, is not utterly waste. Some of it is utilized for pasturage—usually of a scanty type. Hilly land especially is em-